

Mae

Dickinson

State Representative

District 95



How To Reach
Representative

Mae Dickinson

RESIDENCE

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**ANSWER THE
QUESTIONNAIRE ONLINE**

www.state.in.us/R95

Fall, 1999

Dear Friends,

The General Assembly met for an extended Organization Day in mid-November.

The 2000 session is a "short" session, meaning we will begin session January 10 and finish before March 15.

In the short session, each House member may introduce only five pieces of legislation. While we will not re-open the two-year state budget passed earlier this year, the possibility remains that we may fine-tune some of the appropriations outlined in that legislation.

Inside this newsletter is my legislative questionnaire. The questions will provide some details about the topics that may be brought before the legislature. Your opinion is valuable to me as I consider how I will vote.

If you have any concerns or suggestions for change in your state government, please contact me at 232-9600.

Sincerely,

Mae Dickinson



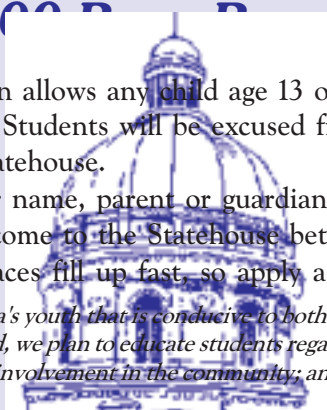
2000 Program

Serving as a page during the 2000 session allows any child age 13 or older the opportunity to gain a firsthand glimpse of how the legislative system works. Students will be excused from school on the day they are serving as a page and will spend the entire day at the Statehouse.

Interested students should send me their name, parent or guardian's name, address, phone number, school and two different dates when the student could come to the Statehouse between January 10 and February 29, 2000.

Please remember session is short and places fill up fast, so apply as soon as possible.

Our mission is to create an environment for Indiana's youth that is conducive to both fun and learning, and which will stimulate student interest in government and community involvement. To that end, we plan to educate students regarding legislative processes; to give students an opportunity to meet their community leaders; to encourage student involvement in the community; and to introduce students to other students around the state.



Financial assistance for college



Rep. Dickinson reviews legislation at her desk in the House Chamber.

Attending college is a key factor for later career success. Indiana's future depends on good students who graduate from college. Students interested in attending college may be eligible for several sources of additional funding.

- *Twenty-First Century Scholars* helps Indiana families afford a college education for their children. To apply for the program, the student must be an Indiana resident, be enrolled in the 8th grade at a public or accredited private school, and be eligible for free or reduced-price lunches under the national school lunch program or free or reduced textbooks under the textbook assistance program.

Students must "Step up to the Pledge" by committing to: (1) graduate from an Indiana high school, (2) achieve a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, (3) not use drugs or alcohol or commit any crime, and (4) apply for college admission and financial aid as a senior in high school.

For more information, call 1-800-992-2076.

- The state of Indiana also offers several scholarships including the *Indiana Higher Education Grant*, the *Hoosier Scholarship Award*, the *Minority Teacher Scholarship* and the *Nursing Scholarship*.

For more information on these scholarships, please contact the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana at 232-2350.

- The U.S. government also assists students in finding funds for college. Grants (which do not have to be repaid) and loans (which do have to be repaid) are available for eligible students. The programs include Stafford Loans, Pell Grants, PLUS Loans, the Work-Study Program and Perkins Loans. Students must complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Forms are available in high school guidance offices, college financial aid offices or by contacting the U.S. Department of Education at 1-800-4FED-AID.

1999 tax cuts total \$672 million



I am very proud to have voted for the 1999 biennial state budget, which provides \$672 million in savings for Indiana taxpayers. I have detailed some of the tax cuts below.

- *Homeowners:* Property taxes on a taxpayer's principal place of residence can be deducted up to \$2,500. The deduction is located on Schedule 1 of the IT-40.

- *Senior citizens:* The income tax deduction for most seniors was increased from \$1,000 to \$1,500. Each qualified taxpayer may take this deduction, which means married couples may now deduct \$3,000 from their adjusted gross income. Many seniors also received an increase in the property tax deduction from \$1,000 to \$2,000.

- *Dependent children:* The income tax deduction was increased from \$1,000 to \$2,500 for dependent children under age 19 and full-time students under age 24. You may reduce your Indiana adjusted gross income for each qualifying dependent.

- *Renters:* The renters' income tax deduction was increased from \$1,500 to \$2,000. This deduction is located on Schedule 1 of the IT-40 or the back of the IT-40EZ.

- *Small businesses:* Businesses will no longer have to "add-back" property taxes deducted on their federal returns.

- *Inventory tax cuts:* The inventory tax was eliminated for 87 percent of Indiana farms and businesses, saving \$129.6 million.

- *Property tax cuts:* The county welfare funds and the county welfare administration funds were eliminated from local property taxes, saving \$67.6 million.

2000 Legislative Survey

Questions

1. Studies have shown that most children who attend full-day kindergarten are better prepared for first grade than children who attend half-day kindergarten. Should the Legislature provide funding to school corporations that choose to offer full-day kindergarten?
2. Do you believe inducements like enterprise zones and tax abatements are an effective use of tax dollars to spur economic development?
3. Do you support passage of legislation that would allow people to have their names placed on a list that would prohibit telemarketers from calling them?
4. Should the Legislature delay the implementation of new property assessment guidelines created by the State Board of Tax Commissioners that will shift the property tax burden to homeowners when they take effect in 2000?
5. Should the Legislature pass a measure that prevents units of government from suing gun manufacturers and dealers?
6. Indiana presently ranks 48th in the nation in the amount of benefits provided to workers injured while on the job. Should injured workers be compensated at higher rates?
7. Do you believe that patients should be able to receive drugs prescribed by their doctors without approval from their HMOs?
8. Who should pay the largest share of property taxes?
A. Agriculture B. Business C. Homeowners
9. If state government had to choose, should it provide tax incentives to attract new jobs for manufacturers of items like automobiles or appliances or for high-tech jobs like chemical and drug companies?
A. Manufacturing B. High-tech

Responses

Respondent 1

Respondent 2

- | | | | | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
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| 2. | Yes
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| 3. | Yes
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| 5. | Yes
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<input type="checkbox"/> | A
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| 9. | A
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<input type="checkbox"/> | A
<input type="checkbox"/> | B
<input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Your Comments

Place
Stamp
Here

Rep. Mae Dickinson
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2786

House Publications Available

The following publications can be requested free of charge from my Statehouse office by calling 232-9600:

Relax . . . -- This informational booklet for senior citizens discusses a variety of issues, from taxes to health problems to leisure activities.

Higher Education -- A 24-page publication for those interested in pursuing a higher education degree, detailing many Indiana colleges and universities as well as occupational and vocational schools.

Guide to State Agencies -- This booklet details various agencies within Indiana state government, listing phone numbers, functions and general areas of responsibility for each of the state agencies.

Hoosier Fun and Facts -- Designed for elementary school-aged children, this information and activity book teaches students about their state through a combination of text, puzzles and other educational activities.

**Is the address label on
this mailing correct?**

Please check the address label on this mailing for accuracy. If there are any errors or if you are receiving duplicate mailings, please contact my office at 232-9600. Every effort will be made to correct the mistake.

I appreciate your assistance in keeping the mailing list updated. This will ultimately result in more efficient delivery and substantial savings to taxpayers across the state.

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Indiana House of
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